

Annual Report of Health Officer of
Los Angeles City.

Nov 13. 1879.

To the Hon. the Council of the City of Los Angeles,

Gentlemen:

While the city has made favorable progress during the last ten months in many directions, yet I believe in none has the advance been more marked than in its sanitary condition, and in the manner of collecting vital statistics.

I look with especial pride to the system of sewerage that your Hon. Body have inaugurated by small pipes. The large sewers that were first used in Los Angeles are being discarded by sanitary engineers the world over.

During the year the Temple Street Sewer and the Fort Street Sewer have been constructed to the great advantage of the portion of the city near those streets.

The great need of the city now is a sewer on Alameda Street that will drain First, Commercial and Aliso Streets and China town and the vicinity of the New Depot. I trust that another year will see this sewer completed. There is a demand for a sewer on Spring Street that I am confident will be complied with at an early date.

Many com-

plaints have been made by people living in the vicinity of the property of A. Brisswalter where the Main Sewer empties. Very soon it will be the city's imperative duty to either have the sewage disinfected or to ~~carry~~ extend the Main Sewer farther from the city.

Chinatown.

This is the crying sanitary evil of Los Angeles. The Chinese are crowded into a number of old dilapidated buildings in the heart of our city. ~~There~~ Their habits of living are filthy in the extreme. Soon after I had the honor of receiving an appointment from you I attempted to enforce the cubic air law that requires 500 cubic feet in the clear for each person in a sleeping apartment. The attempt was ineffectual mainly I believe because of the prejudice against what is called Chinese persecution. In the last annual report of Dr. J. L. Meares, Health Officer of San Francisco he says:

I desire, through you, to call the attention of the proper authorities to the necessity of the daily enforcement of our much abused "cubic-air ordinance." The spasmodic execution of this law against the Chinese is of no avail. Its daily enforcement would compel many of these people to leave the city, or to discontinue living in these overcrowded quarters. The sanitary condition of these quarters is better than in any other part of the city, yet it is still a matter of great concern to the health of the city.

The above would to a great extent apply to

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the death rate amongst them is really
decimating them. I desire to express here
my thanks to Dr. Den for his assistance in
encouraging the native population to take
proper sanitary precautions.

Yet in spite
of all these numerous causes of death in Los Angeles
it will be seen by referring to our Mortality
report that the death rate is not excessive.

We have been almost free from Scarlet
Fever and Diphtheria. During the last
year there being but one death in the city
from the former and four from the latter.
I append to my report a circular that was
issued by the Board of Health urging the
people to put their premises in good
condition and giving them directions
for the prevention of disease.

In return I desire
to express my appreciation of the hearty
practical manner in which your Hon.
Body has uniformly cooperated with me
in my efforts to preserve the health of
our beautiful city.

I wish to especially
thank His Honor Mayor Tobermuse
for being always accessible when I de-
sired his authority to take any steps

Los Angeles. In February your Hon. Body appointed a committee consisting of the Chief of Police, City Engineer and Health Officer to report on a plan for improving the Sanitary condition of Chinatown. That committee reported two plans viz 1st to condemn the buildings and order them vacated. 2nd they especially recommended that a sewer be built on Alameda Street and the extension of Los Angeles Street. I trust that another year will see the latter plan carried out.

The city of Los Angeles has become renowned the world over as resort for invalids and it behooves us for that reason as well as for the preservation of the lives of our own families to put it in the very best sanitary condition. We have the health giving sun almost every day in the year, we have the ocean breeze just properly tempered by hills and orange groves, we have the best altitude for health, we have pure water pouring down from a mountain stream, we have a porous soil and an excellent drainage, we have the most equable temperature in the civilized world, we have in fact everything that God could give us to make this a healthful city and

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yet we allow that rotten spot - China town - to grow and pollute the air we breathe and poison the water we drink. Your Hon. Body has taken far more interest in the health of our city than any previous council and I believe that you will soon find the ways and means to remove the Chinese to healthful quarters.

As a great portion of our population is ~~now~~ composed of elderly people who desire to spend their last days in a warm climate our death rate is increased above what it naturally should be. This being also a popular resort for invalids there are many deaths of persons who were too much diseased to be benefitted and who died very soon after their arrival. A number of the deaths from consumption were of persons who had been here but a few days. Our death report also contains the deaths in our County Hospital, very ^{few} of the inmates of which were ever residents of the City until they entered the Hospital. There is yet another peculiar cause of an increase in our death rate viz. our native California population. Owing to the fact that they totally ignore all ordinary hygienic and sanitary rules

in the Health Department. His Honor has
~~displayed~~ evinced a knowledge of sanitary
and hygienic questions and an ^{intelligent} interest in
the health of the people that is seldom
found outside of the medical profession.

Very respectfully yours
Walter Lindsey, M.D.
Health Officer.

Mortality Report of the City of
Los Angeles
for the ten months beginning
January 1st and ending November 1st 1879

Total Number of Deaths including
Still births 1755 ~~Estm~~

Estimated population 16000,
Annual rate per thousand 13.1

Fifty of the deaths in this report
occurred in our Hospitals.

Report of Births in the City of
Los Angeles
for the ten months beginning
January 1st and ending Nov 1st 1879

January	Male 11	Female 14	Total 25
February	Male 9	Female 12	Total 21
March	Male 14	Female 16	Total 30
April	Male 12	Female 10	Total 22
May	Male 8	Female 13	Total 21
June	Male 13	Female 8	Total 21
July	Male 27	Female 9	Total 26
August	Male 8	Female 8	Total 16
September	Male 13	Female 5	Total 18
October	Male 14	Female 9	Total 23
Total	Male 119	Female 104	223

The above is incomplete.

Diseases

1st Systemic

	Total	Males	Females	Infants	Children	Adolescents	Adults	Seniors	Others	Unk.	Pacific Coast	Atlantic States	Mexico	Other	Foreign Countries
Scarlatina	1		1	1							1				
Diphtheria	4	2	2	3		1					3			1	
Croup	2	2		1		1					2				
Whooping Cough	1	1		1							1				
Diphtheria	3	2	1		2	1					1	1	1		
Diarrhea	3	2	1	1	1	1					1	1		1	
Dysentery	4	3	1	1		1	2				1	1	1	1	
Cholera Infantum	1	1		1							1				
Enteric Fever															
Murderitis															
Syphilis	2	1	1	1	1						2				
Alcoholism	1	1				1								1	

2nd Constitutional

Rheumatism	3	3			1	1	1				1	1	1		
Cancer	5	3	2		1	3	1				2	1		2	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	35	26	9		1	29	5				6	14	2	13	
Hydrocephalus	1		1				1						1		
Neurasthenia	4	2	2	1	1	1	1				2	1		1	

3rd Local Diseases

Peritonitis	1		1			1						1			
Epilepsy	1		1			1							1		
Aphasia	3	2	1	1			1	1	1		1		1	1	
Other Diseases															
of Nervous System	7	3	4	6		1					6			1	
Heart Disease	12	11	1	2		6	2	2			4	1		7	
Bronchitis	3	1	2	2		1					2		1		
Pneumonia	11	6	5	3		5	3				4	3	3	1	
Gastritis	8	5	3	7		1					7			1	
Enteritis	6	3	3	2		2	1	1			3	2	1		
Hepatitis	1	1				1						1			
Bright's Disease	2	2					1	1	1		1			1	
Stomach															
Cystitis	2	2				1		1				1		1	

4th Developmental Diseases

Encephalitis	1		1			1					1				
Marasmus	15	6	9	13	1						1	15			
Old Age	7	3	4								7	3	1	1	3
Paralysis	2	1	1	2							2				
Still Born	4	4													

5th Violent Deaths

Run over by Railroad	2		2			2					1			1	
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6th Quarantined

Masturbation	11	8	2	2	1	4	3				2	1		7	
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Totals

	175	112	63	51	111	72	24	14							
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Keith Office

October 24/75

W. D. Black
J. H. Brown
J. M. Gray
John H. H. H.

See meeting on
Annex Report

